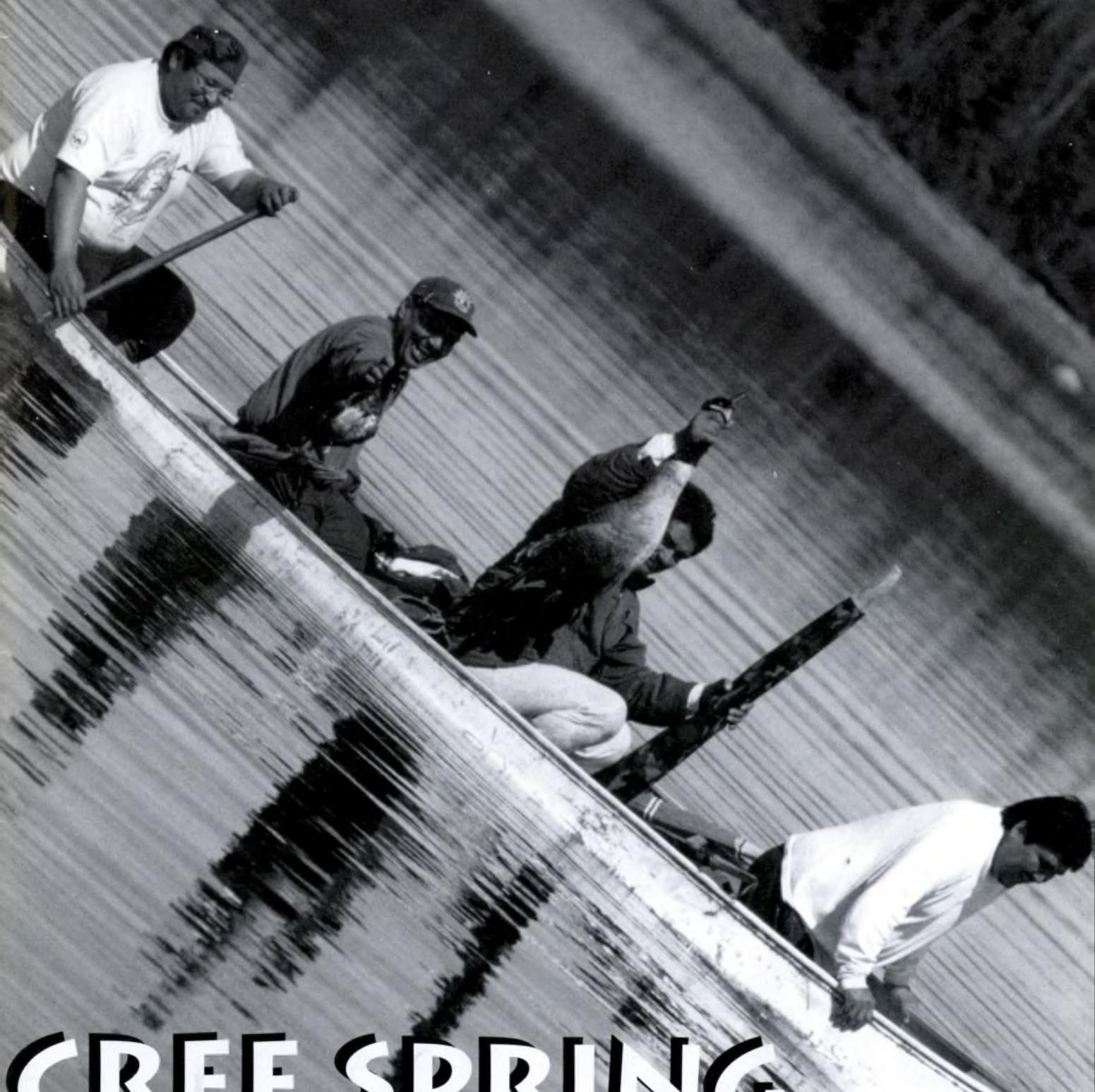


Nation

Volume 6, No. 13 • May 21, 1999



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THE COVER

Goose hunters proudly showing
their catch in Mistissini Lake
Photographer: William Nicholls
Cover Design: Sylvia Tennisco

any family, even if distributed to grandparents, brothers, sisters and/or children (if it isn't sold to them!), there is still an excess of maybe five moose. What do they do with the other five you ask? Well sell it of course. For their own personal profit. And this is what we scoffed at the white man about with their sport hunting and poaching and of the repulsive public display of their kill. We have seen videos of such men, and now we have sunk to their level of scum. Now it is their turn to laugh at us and prove to the world that we are no better than they are. How we used our "culture" to win so many battles with the governments, seems like such a waste now.

With this goosehunt, I have heard of camps killing over a thousand geese. The poaching has already started. The Great Spirit blessed us once again, a blessing that we have not had in years, and again our people shame us. It is time that they are taught the ways of our life again.

The lands feeds us with only what we need, and should not take more than that. It is a teaching that seems to have been forgotten in the midst of all the talk of self government or any other money thirsty conquests "our leaders" have been negotiating for our people. To hell with our leaders. They themselves are even too ashamed to live with their people. They hide behind the robes of the Ministers.

Ooh. I think I've said more than what I meant to say. I guess all I am requesting for is an issue related to that. The poaching and overkill. Not all the other issues that I feel strongly for. That was just me releasing some "fumes." I hope that you as journalists can understand this.

Just a nice front page "In-Your-Face" issue will do on your investigation(s).

Anonymous

First I would like to commend you all on your valiant efforts in keeping your magazine on the stands (despite all of the nasty publicity its been getting - not that I've listened to any of them, or believed any of it or heaven forbid participate in the talks). Keep up the good work!! I would like to mention to the editorial board and to the journalists of an issue that has been a heavy topic among the youth today (who of course you must all bow down to one of these days - I mean you can only kiss the ass of the Cree leadership of today for so long. We, the youth, are up and coming (not literally) so please take our issues seriously.) Enough of the b.s. that the politicians have been discussing for how long now?? One issue that we think the nation should investigate is the one concerning poaching of our wild game (that the Great Spirit has bestowed upon us once again). There was talk of individuals driving from community to community selling caribou or moose or (soon enough) geese at prices not even worth mentioning.

These are our role models? Has this become so acceptable with our society that will become a way of life for some? What impact will this have on our people? We fight for our Cree rights to be recognized and this is what we have to show for it? Is this Cree pride we are displaying by ignoring it? Is this the reason for the Nation not publishing any material on this issue (perhaps in a couple of editorials but the youth feel that this deserves front page exposure)? Or would (political) toes be stepped on by exposing these poachers (who might be per chance family members)?

Perhaps this is the reason why families are killing more than their share. It is common knowledge that some hunters, even as little as two, kill as many as thirteen moose in one hunt. THIRTEEN!! Tell me, is there a need for



"Life is what happens while you're busy making plans."

John Lennon

Too many of my plans never seem to pan out. My life plan when I was younger was that by age 35, maybe even 30 if I was lucky, I would have my own house with the proverbial white picket fence, the pitter patter of several Neils' and maybe Nellies' feet in my hallways, and a beautiful wife, barefoot and pregnant again, waiting on me hand and foot, and maybe a sexy maid or two to give her a hand.

I had also planned, by this time, to be maybe a doctor, an architect, a scholar, an actor, a musician, a deejay, a restaurateur, a bon vivant, a raconteur, an adventurer, a revolutionary, a chief, teacher, artist, filmmaker, a diplomat in some exotic locale, a CEO of some giant corporation and even a lowly bartender with a sympathetic ear for the poor drunks.

I needn't tell you I haven't yet realized any of the above. And it's not just my major plans that fail to materialize. I had planned on going on the spring hunt this year and didn't. I figured out only when it was too late that maybe I had overplanned the whole expedition. In other words, life happened while I was busy making plans.

Don't get me wrong, a few of my more humble plans have come to fruition. Although there was minimal planning involved. Which is the way, I think, our lives in this day and age usually end up. For most of us anyway, I mean how many

of us grew up to be policemen, firemen, nurses, dentists, chievers or any of the other popular youthful aspirations. Imagine a world filled with just dentists, nurses or firemen. Everyone would be healthy, with dazzling white teeth and their grease fires would be snuffed out as soon as they started. Not many people's vision of Utopia I'm afraid.

Correct me if you think otherwise, but most Crees are... ahem... plan-challenged. It's ingrained in our being. Life back then wasn't conducive to plan-making when you were at the mercy of the environment and the elements. You couldn't very well say, today, I'm going to paddle up the river a ways, shoot a few moose and be back by nightfall. You would have been laughed out of camp and left to wander the wilds alone, hungry and humiliated. Forgive the hyperbole, but you get the point I'm sure. What if a blizzard suddenly appeared. Your well-laid plans would have flown out the window. Funnily enough, you wouldn't even have known what your plans were flying out of because you've lived in a teepee all your life and windows hadn't been introduced yet. But I digress.

Maybe that's the reason I freeze when I'm asked what my plans are for the next month or year. (Can you come to my son's wedding next year?) It used to be that I even had trouble planning for the coming weekend or the next day and that was usually considered a flaw in my character. My attitude was always: we'll see, who knows and even who cares. But I'm planning on completely annihilating my Cree nature so bear with me.

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Nation

SAM BOSUM ELECTED O.J. CHIEF

Sam Bosum is the new chief of Ouje-Bougoumou. He was elected on April 30 with 58 per cent of the vote, or 140 of 241 valid ballots.

Louise Wapabee, the incumbent chief, gathered 71 votes, or 29 per cent. In third place was Joseph Shecapio-Blacksmith, who was one of Wapabee's most vocal critics during her short term as chief. He got 31 votes, or 13 per cent.

Bosum, in his mid-50s, is the eldest of O.J.'s first three chiefs since the community was created in 1992. He was elected to a four-year term.

Bosum was deputy chief before the election and owns Native Explorations Services, a line-cutting and mine-staking business based in Ouje-Bougoumou. He has been involved in this field for over 30 years.

Wapabee was elected only last July, but the poll was immediately swamped by controversy. Critics said Wapabee shouldn't have run for chief while holding the job of band treasurer, which they said is prohibited by a community bylaw.

The Cree-Naskapi Commission stepped in with an investigation that cleared Wapabee of any wrongdoing, but the controversy spilled over to other issues, dividing the community. Last fall, community members voted to hold another election for chief and council.

Wapabee's supporters said her problems really started when she announced plans to change how the band was administered. She also walked into a bit of controversy when she tried to reduce "recognition awards" of thousands of dollars given to the previous chief and council.

Some residents apparently didn't like having a woman chief, especially one who was as youthful as Wapabee.

Also elected was a new council: Kenny Mianscum, Suzanne Mark Mianscum, Billy Capissisit, Albert Mianscum, Margo Mianscum and Rachel Bush.

Except for Kenny Mianscum, they are all newcomers and there is a good mix of elders and youth, women and men. "I interpret this as a unity council," one observer commented.

-BY ALEX ROSLIN



EX-MINISTER ACCUSED OF MOLESTING MINOR SQ ARRESTS FORMER WASWANIPI REVEREND IN CHAPAI

William Presnail, the former Anglican reverend of Waswanipi, was arrested in Chapais April 28 on a charge of sexually assaulting a minor.

A 16-year-old Chapais boy filed a sexual-assault complaint against Presnail on April 27 with the Sûreté du Québec. The alleged incident took place March 6.

Presnail, 45, was taken to Roberval, where he was freed the next day on condition he makes a June 10 preliminary hearing in Chibougamau. He pled not guilty to the charge.

He was Waswanipi's Anglican minister for under a year. Last year, he was removed from his job by his church superiors following complaints about his personality and style by community members. Presnail moved to Chapais after the band council evicted him from Waswanipi in the winter.

Waswanipi residents accused Presnail of being arrogant, abrasive and not listening to their concerns. Presnail defended himself by saying he cared deeply for the community and, especially, its kids. He was passionate about his involvement in a local kids' hockey team, the Hawks.

Kids were often seen at his house in Waswanipi, where Presnail could always be relied on to serve them a meal. But some parents were concerned he was also giving or selling kids cigarettes.

On a visit to Presnail's Waswanipi home one evening last fall, two kids dropped by and asked an adult standing outside if Presnail was around to sell a cigarette for a loonie.

Presnail, when asked whether he sold cigarettes to kids, at first denied it. He later admitted doing so. He blamed the children's parents for showing a bad example by smoking themselves.

There may be other sexual-assault complainants, according to Pierre Gagnon, Presnail's Chiboutimi-based lawyer. "A prosecutor informed me there were other people to meet who could be other victims," Gagnon acknowledged. "Obviously, he (Presnail) denies the accusations."

Gagnon also criticized a recent report in Chibougamau's *Le Sentinel* weekly, which included the name and number of the investigating SQ officer for other potential victims to call. "It's the first time I've seen something like that. It opens the door to give ideas to false victims to appear and claim compensation," he said.

Presnail is also fighting another earlier charge of allegedly threatening to break a local resident's windows. He promised a court not to communicate with the resident, but later "he broke his promise," said SQ spokeswoman Hélène Napton.

He was to appear Sept. 1 on this charge, but Napton said the two cases will probably be rolled into one, to be heard June 10.

Presnail was freed on the sexual-assault charge on a few conditions: he can't consume alcohol, be alone with a minor or visit places where kids are, contact the victim or go to Waswanipi and Ouje-Bougoumou.

Info: SQ agent Gaetan Lessard, 418-748-7652 (Chibougamau).

by Alex Roslin

Thanks for the support

Letter to *The Nation*:

RE: Journey Through the Heart of Eeyou/Enou Istchee, "Bringing our people home."

I thank God for guiding me every day. The following list of people and organizations are greatly appreciated for their support: mom and dad for everything you prepared for me, my girlfriend for everything, the local youth council for its financial support, the owner of the dogs for all his help and generosity, the people who hauled our supplies by snowmobile, who prepared our camps and the Cree Nation Youth Council for the overall coordination. Meequetch.

Most of all, thanks to my new friends (the participants, the assistant leader and the leader of the journey). It was difficult at times, but we managed to complete the journey with each other's encouragement. It was a pleasure to be a part of the journey and I will treasure the good and fun times we've experienced. I encourage you all to appreciate life and wish you all the best!

This journey is a great achievement for



the Cree Nation and "bringing our people home" is becoming a reality!

From a Nemaska youth participant

The laughter, the heart-aches

Letter to *The Nation*:

Although not Native, I try and pick up your magazine as often as possible. I'm currently in the middle of the December 18, 1998, issue and felt this pressing urge to write.

The articles in each issue are well-written and honest. There is little run-around and politically-correct nothings inserted here

and there. There are articles that make me laugh because true humour - that not meant to hurt - is universal.

There are articles like that by Maurice Switzer entitled "Indian Red" that validate my conviction to raise my children to question the rightness of word and action, and work to correct these when we can.

There are articles that have my heart aching for the families and communities touched by tragedy. There are articles that sow righteous anger in that same heart at the injustices rained upon a hard-working people trying to be true to their identity.

There are articles that are reminders that ignorance and prejudice can be erased in those willing to hear and learn. And there are articles that make me proud that I have the opportunity to live in this region and gradually get to know and build friendships with the people around me.

Thank you for all the moments of introspection your articles bring on and long life to *The Nation*.

Jo-Ann Toulouse, Chibougamau

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QUEBEC SLAMMED ON DIABETES "TIMEBOMB"

Calling the diabetes epidemic a ticking "timebomb," Cree officials slammed the Quebec government for ignoring warnings about the health crisis for years. They were responding to a new study that found Crees have one of the world's highest diabetes rates.

"It's quite shocking to me," said Bill Namagoose, executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees.

"The diabetes epidemic is overtaking our health services. It's a timebomb. It's five minutes to noon on this issue."

Namagoose criticized the province for cutting off negotiations with Crees on health care and other issues in February.

Guy Chevrette, Quebec's native-affairs minister, told Crees in a Feb. 10 letter that a the negotiations were suspended because of the Cree forestry lawsuit filed last summer.

The lawsuit argues that clear-cut logging has left the Cree territory a barren, lifeless wasteland, even though the Cree hunting-and-trapping way of life was supposed to be protected by the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

Namagoose accused Quebec of trying to "blackmail" Crees: "Health should not be a political pawn."

He said Cree health care is "vastly underfunded," and called on the province to live up to its 1975 promise in the James Bay Agreement to fund Cree health care at the same level as the rest of Quebec.

The new diabetes study was published May 4 in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. It found almost 13 per cent of Cree women giving birth have gestational diabetes, a form of the illness that occurs during pregnancy. That is

twice the North American average and the second-highest in a First Nation worldwide.

The study caught health ministry officials off-guard with little information to offer inquiring journalists about the Cree diabetes epidemic.

Nicole Bastien, a spokeswoman for Quebec Health Minister Pauline Marois, said she wasn't aware of the high diabetes rate.

Dr. Robert Harris, a Chisasibi Hospital public-health expert, said Aboriginal people worldwide are facing diabetes explosions due to sudden lifestyle changes often brought on by development projects. In 1975, when the James Bay Agreement was signed, just three Crees were known to have diabetes.

Harris said there are simple ways to prevent or cope with diabetes: changing diet, exercising and reducing stress. But he said Crees need support from their communities and health workers, and that means more funding is needed.

Gestational diabetes normally goes away after birth, but a woman who had it is more likely to need a caesarian section and to get diabetes later. Her baby also has more chance of birth trauma and being born overweight, said Elizabeth Robinson, a Cree Health Board doctor who co-authored the study.

As of May 1998, 10 per cent of Crees 15 years and up were diagnosed with some type of diabetes, more than double the Canadian average of 4 per cent. In Mistissini, 18 per cent are diagnosed with diabetes, but many others have the illness without knowing it.

The health board is planning a complete screening of all residents in two Cree communities this summer to get more accurate figures.

by Alex Roslin

90% of Quebecers want ban on large clearcuts

Nine in 10 Quebecers want a ban on large-scale clearcuts, according to a survey for the newspaper *Le Devoir*.

The survey of 1,013 people found 87.1 per cent say Quebec "should stop the current methods of exploitation of the public forests, especially large-scale clearcuts." Only 12.9 per cent don't share this opinion.

That's the result of a survey done in mid-April during the week that followed the broadcast of the film *L'Erreur Boréale*, directed by poet-singer Richard Desjardins.

The survey found 92.5 per cent of Quebecers believe "the government should give the Environment Ministry the mandate to regulate and inspect the exploitation of the public forests." Only 7.5 per cent disagreed.

Also, 74.5 per cent are convinced that "the big forestry companies are pillaging the Northern Quebec forests." Less than 25 per cent disagreed.

The survey also found 50.4 per cent think a clearcut ban won't cost thousands of jobs, though 49.6 per cent think it will.

The film shows graphic footage of devastating clearcuts across the North, including one massive cut in Cree land. The film ends with a statement by Waswanipi Elder Isaac Dixon about how logging has affected the land and animals.

The film has, for the first time, provoked a strong debate about forestry in Quebec, the earth's third-largest newsprint maker, with 12 per cent of world production.

Le Devoir called the impact of *L'Erreur Boréale* "devastating." Jacques Brassard, Quebec's natural-resources minister, angrily blasted the film. "The central theme of the film is false. The boreal forest isn't threatened. It isn't being pillaged. It is in good health, exploited and managed well," he told reporters.

But a Quebec-wide environmental committee called for a ban on clearcuts, an independent public inquiry and changes in rules to achieve sustainable development.

Kung fu club wins big

The Chisasibi Kung Fu School kicked butt at the 19th Annual Quebec World Open Karate Championships in Quebec City, posting its best results ever.

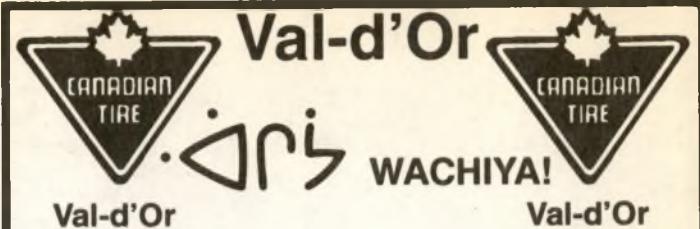
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BOOKS

How kids relax

KidStress

by Georgia Witkin

Viking Press: New York City, 1999

Those who know me know I love to read. I read almost anything and everything, anywhere and anytime. It's a practice some people have found annoying since I tend to block out my surroundings.

Normally, though, I read fiction, especially science-fiction. Any of my friends will tell you I'm a true fanatic. That's why it is such a surprise when I recommend a non-fiction book to them.

In this case I recommend this book to all parents and those wanting to become parents. *KidStress* was one of the most enlightening books I have read this year.

The author, George Witkin, a psychologist who appears regularly on American TV, did an interesting and innovative survey of parents and kids. The survey found there are a lot of misconceptions out there about how kids deal with stress.

For example, parents believe their kids worry, but not a lot. They think peer pressure is kids' greatest stress, doing well at school is less important than being popular or liked, fear of punishment is less important than being popular or liked, kids don't worry about their parents' health and their children are not usually afraid to tell or ask them anything.

All of these assumptions are understandable, well-meaning and, according to Witkin, all wrong! We assume that children feel a sense of control over their daily lives, but they don't.

Kids do in fact worry about money and health problems, the world economy, world peace, doing well in school, etc. This can give kids stress.

One interesting section talks about what age kids develop different ways to relax and different responses to stress - everything from fantasy to joking around - to relieve the tension.

Best of all this book isn't written in serious scientific jargon that the average person needs a dictionary to decipher, but in plain, ordinary, easy-to-understand and read English. For your sake and the sake of your children give this book the once over. You won't ever regret it. The only thing you might regret is not picking it up sooner.

-BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

BRIEFS



WILLIAM NICHOLLS

In the sky, it's a bird; it's a plane. No, it's a boat! If you thought you had an unlucky goose hunt, think of poor Gordon Loon. He decides it's time to bring his brand spanking new boat and 9.9-horsepower motor out to the goose camp via Viking Helicopter. The release button was accidentally hit and down she fell hitting the old health board van, taking off a door. Fortunately, the insurance will be paying to replace the damaged goods. A couple of years back a canoe was split in two while trying to take it out to camp by helicopter. -W.N.

continued from page 7

School members came home with 17 trophies, plaques and medals.

A total of 40 Chisasibi residents went on the roadtrip via the Cree Nation Bus.

And now the winners...

White Sash (belt): George Pepabano (5th place forms, 5th sparring), Marilyn Dick (5th sparring), Robert Harris (2nd sparring, 3rd forms).

Yellow Sash: Tineke Moistert-Harris (1st sparring, 2nd forms), Jeremy Ratt (5th sparring), Anthony Nineo'clock (5th forms), Delanna Dick (4th sparring), Harriett Ratt (5th sparring).

Brown Sash: Edward Nineo'clock (5th sparring, 5th forms), Mario Desgagné (2nd sparring, 5th forms), Chantale Sénechal (1st sparring, 1st forms).

Other participants were: Peter Ratt, Paul and Valentina Tapiatic, Celina Chakapash, Scott Nineo'clock, David Sam, Leslie Herodier, Jean Ricardi-Octave, Robert Bobbush, Georgina and Margaret Dick, Timothy and Roxanne RabbitSkin, Viviane Snowboy, Melanie Pachano and Charlotte Bearskin.

The kung fu school wants to thank everybody who helped in making the event a success. The sifu (instructor), Jean Lauzier, would also like to congratulate all the winners and participants.

Four Cree officers honoured

Four Cree police officers were honoured with awards at a Quebec City conference on policing by the province's First Nations.

Sam House of Chisasibi and Reggie



Samuel House and Reggie Bobbush were among four Cree police officers who won awards.

Bobbush, who works with the CRA in Nemaska, Waskaganish's Jim Hester and David Kakabat of Wemindji won the Aboriginal Police Community Service medals.

The medal was given to officers with at least 15 years of service with exemplary conduct and outstanding community involvement. The medals are the work of Robin Sky of Kahnawake. The conference was organized by a Quebec Native police chiefs' association, Quebec and the Feds.

Cry of the old wild goose

BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

*Tonight I heard the wild goose cry
 Hangin' north in the lonely sky
 Tried to sleep, it warn't no use
 'cause I am a brother to the old wild goose
 (Cry Of the Wild Goose by Frankie Laine.
 Song was #1 for two weeks in 1950.)*

Yep, that's me the first night I'm back in Mistissini. Getting out the hunting clothes, oiling up the gun, checking the shells and setting the alarm clock for 3:30 in the morning.

Trouble is I'm lying there awake with every bone in my body vibrating with excitement thinking back to trips of yester-year.

The spring goose hunt is a religious experience for me. It is the awakening of mother earth heralded by the return of the geese to the Cree territory. A time of gathering together and experiencing the renewal of life on the land.

It was great to see family and friends back home. Now as I sit and write this another spring goose hunt has finished. People are heading back into the community. I can imagine the post-hunt action. The black ducks are on the way, the ice is opening up and walleye are about to start spawning.

Spring for the Crees is truly a time of plenty.

Mistissini, when I first arrived back home, is like every other Cree community... a ghost town. Businesses shut down to minimal activities for the most part, no kids, and the school is closed and silent. The gym opens each evening but most nights see only one or two people showing up. Most people have headed out into the bush.

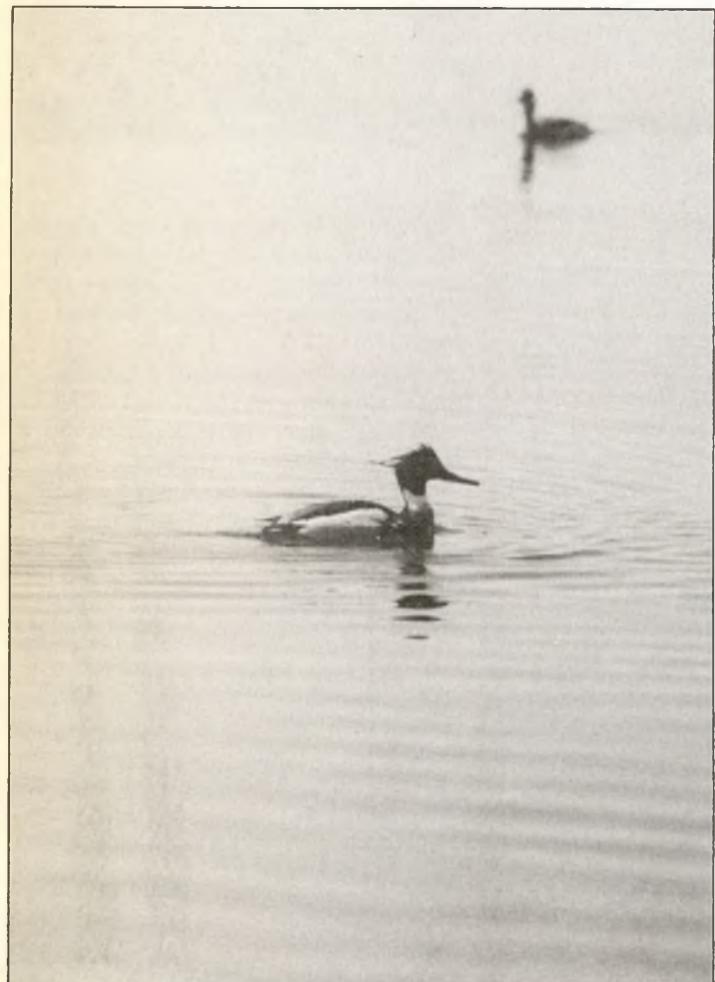
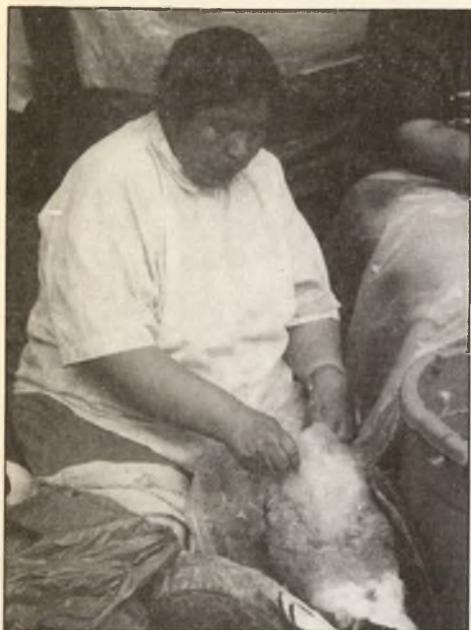
Myself, I joined a few others and decide to hunt on my Uncle Don's goose territory. At a mere 70-80 yards from his house, Don along with others has set up two blinds. As I am one of the last hunters to arrive and haven't killed my first goose yet the other hunters allow me to shoot first. It's an old tradition and one I've been the beneficiary to more than once since I've been in



The Dixon brothers bring home the bacon.

Photos by William Nicholls and Alex Roslin

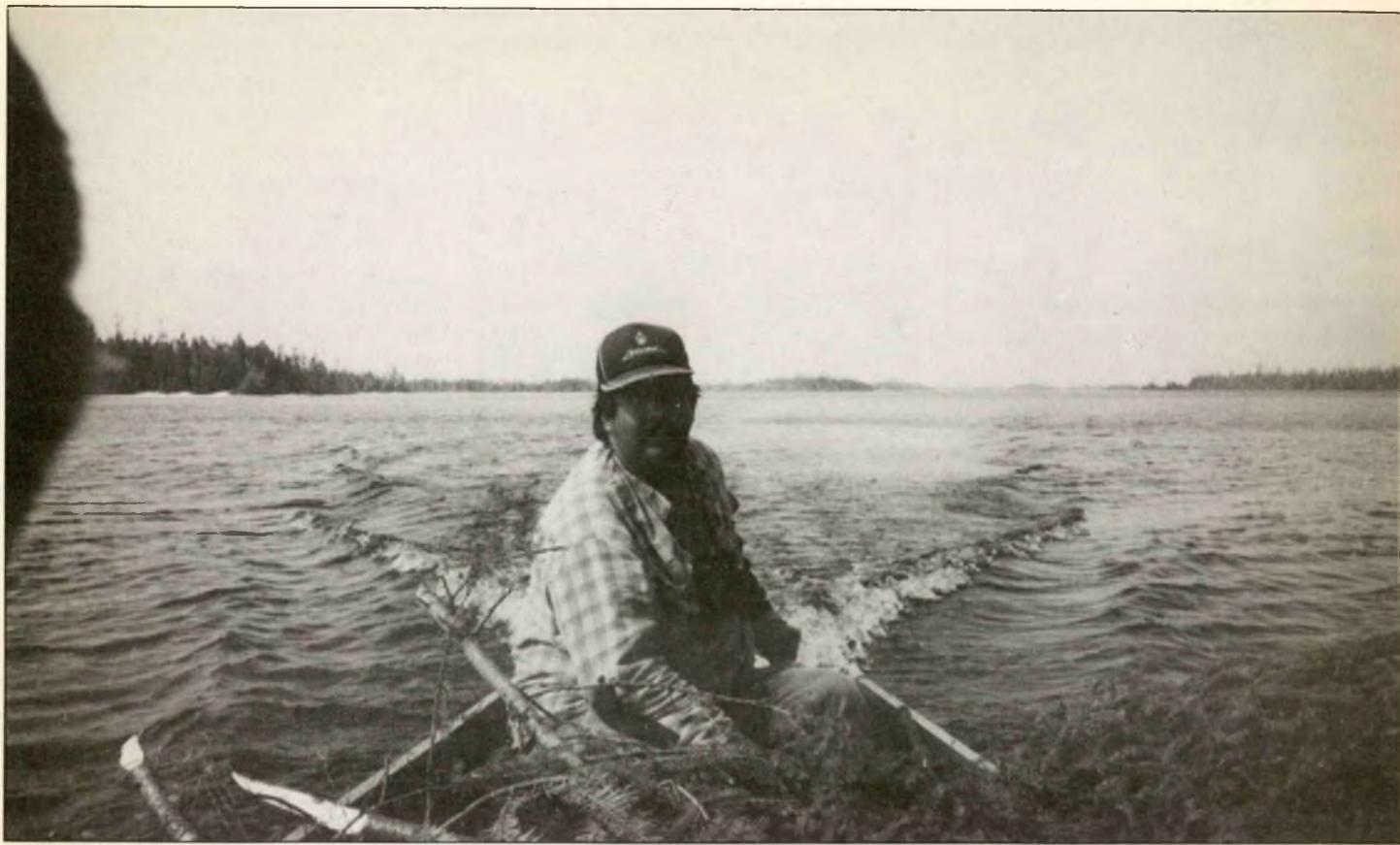
GOOSE BREAK



An unsuspecting Merganser swims obliviously by trigger-happy Cree hunter.



The armoury and tools of the trade.



When the geese don't come to you, you have to go to them. Prowling for stray flocks in a spruce-bough-covered boat on windy Windy Lake, in the Waswanipi territory.

Montreal. A thanks to all the hunters of their consideration.

A typical day was getting up at 3:30 in the morning and arriving at the blind by 4:00.

The light would just be starting and the ducks would be just black silhouettes. As long as I could see the end of my gun I would shoot. Then the waiting would start.

A time of looking for the slightest change in the sky followed by short periods of excitement, as ducks would drop in, sometimes without advance notice. But always our eyes and ears would be searching for the geese.

In the blind we would talk about what we were up to, update each other on friends and share stories and jokes. The camaraderie and bonding goes beyond the occasional day when someone ate boiled eggs for breakfast.



A goose camp hidden in a forest on an island in the middle of a river somewhere in a southern trapline.

I'm sure everyone knows what I mean by that last comment! I've always been tempted to have a section of who in which camp won the farting contests I hear so much about.

Not that I've ever been a part of this game. Yeah, sure, and my farts smell like roses too. But it's all part of passing the time in the blind, so to speak.

This year it was so hot the first couple of days I stripped down to my combat pants hoping for the traditional hunter's tan. You know the one where only one side gets the sun. With my superior wisdom I refused the sunblock 45 and ended up using Noxzema. A small price to pay for a quicker tan accompanied by a minor sunburn. Vanity rears its ugly head at times even in the worst of us.

I think my favourite part of the hunt was when the snow geese came in. There were about 30 of them and that is a rare sight when you're hunting inland. We emptied our guns.

I have a lot of respect for the boys on the coast after seeing only two go down. But the four of us were laughing our heads off later on; those geese were harder to pluck than the Canada's, I was told.

GOOSE BREAK

We shared them with the hunters from across the water in a little mukshan one Saturday so everyone got a little taste. The mukshan was great. A gathering of two groups of families and friends to celebrate the hunt.

I was lucky enough to get asked by my Uncle Luke to travel up the road from Mistissini towards Lake Albanel. On the way back we stopped at one camp. It was then that the hunt came together for me. At least three generations were in the teepee plucking geese. Women, men and children all together, smiling and talking in small groups. The discussions would go around as people dropped out to start another and others dropped in to continue the conversation in progress. Truly a time for family closeness and they made us feel a part of it and very welcome. Cree hospitality is always something that has to be experienced to be believed.

With the ice opening up and more water available, the hunt was drawing to a close. We rolled the blinds to

the shore, pulled up the canoes and hung them on the rack. A few last stops here and there with everyone reporting a good hunt. In fact, all around, everyone said it was the best they had in a long time.

With that it's time for this "brother to the old wild goose" to let the pictures do the

talking. Each one is worth a thousand words and a few memories. And lastly thanks to the Creator, the geese and the land for all they have given the Crees this year.



There's one thing you gotta ask yourself. Are you feeling lucky? Well, are you... goose?

"At least three generations were in the teepee plucking geese. Women, men and children all together, smiling and talking in small groups."



A view from the blind.



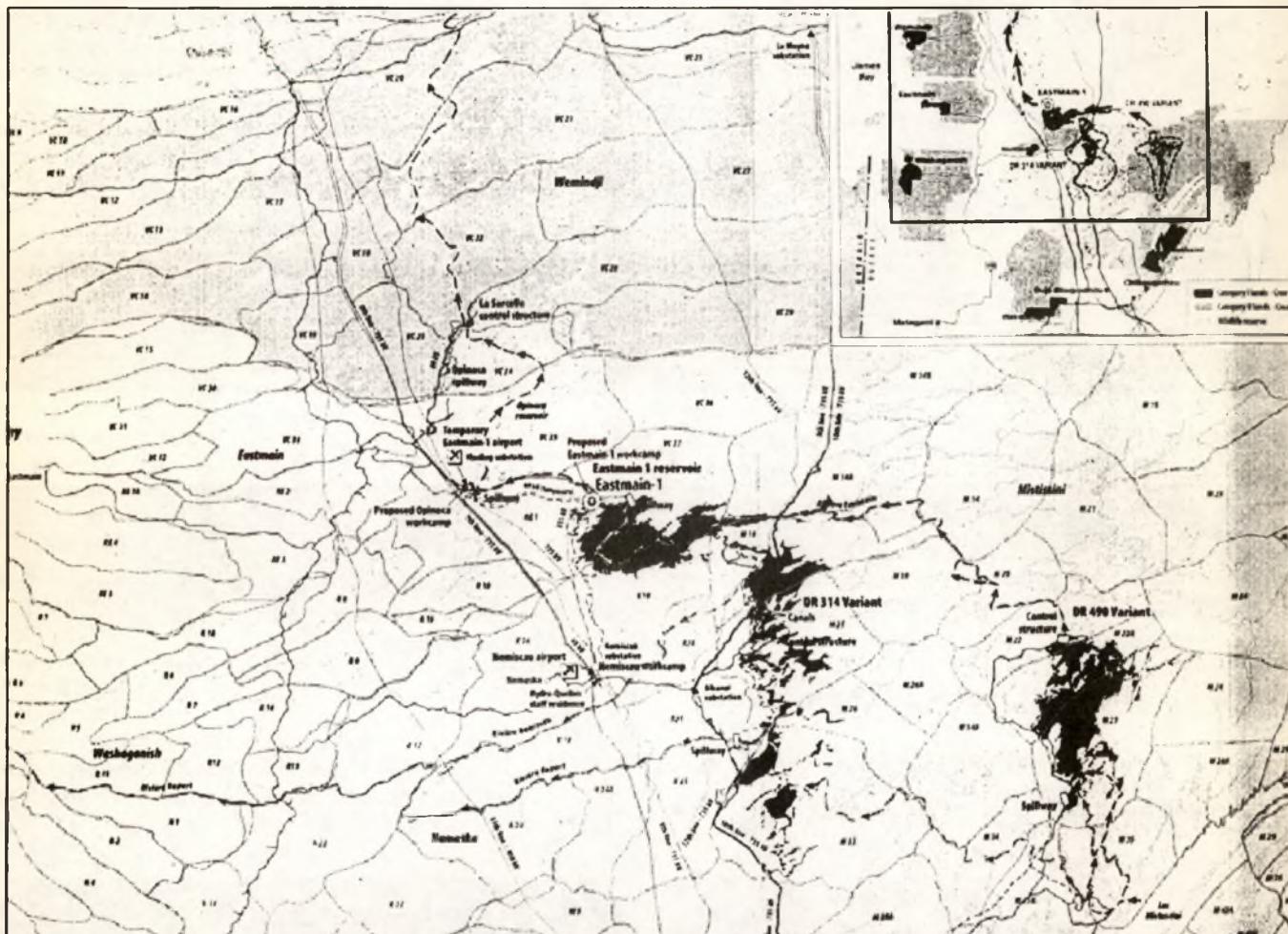
Don MacLeod packs it in after a successful goose break in Mistissini.



Another fine spring day in the gutway, Mistissini Lake.

What's the dealio?

Hydro-Quebec is pushing a partnership deal with the Crees on its proposed \$2-billion-plus Rupert-Eastmain hydro-electric project. Here's what the project would look like.



The facts of the deal

Cost: \$2.2 to \$2.8 billion (depending on which of the two variants is chosen)

How much would be flooded by the proposed EM-1 reservoir: 624 sq. km

How high the dam would be: 68 metres

How many dikes: 30

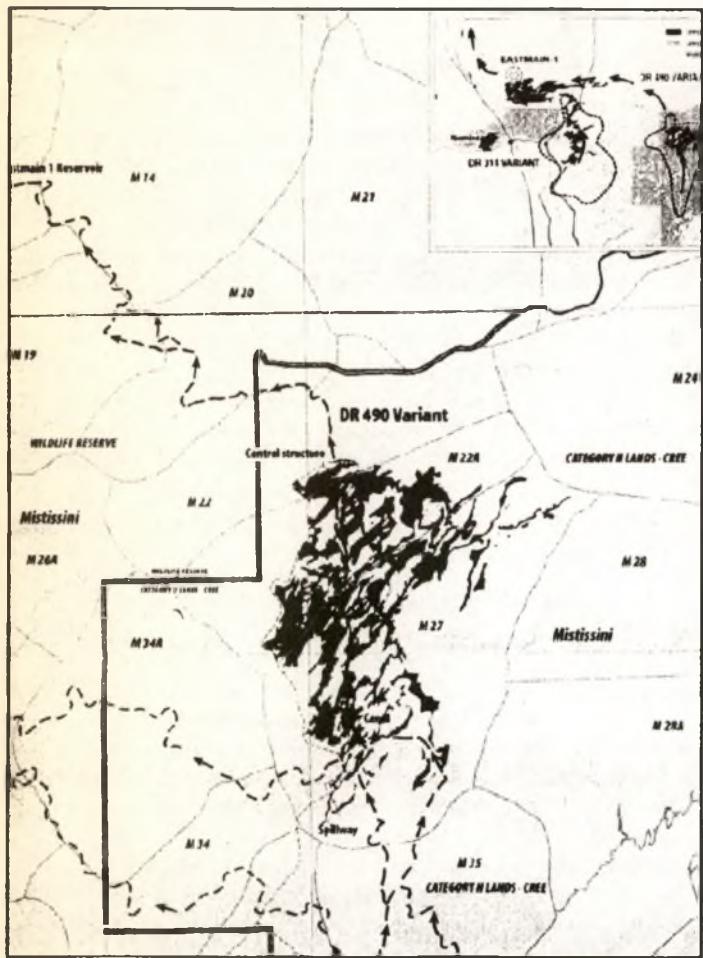
How much would be flooded at the Rupert diversion: 367 or 354 sq. km.

How much the Rupert would be diverted at the dam: 90 per cent

How much the Rupert would be diverted at the river mouth: 33 or 44 per cent

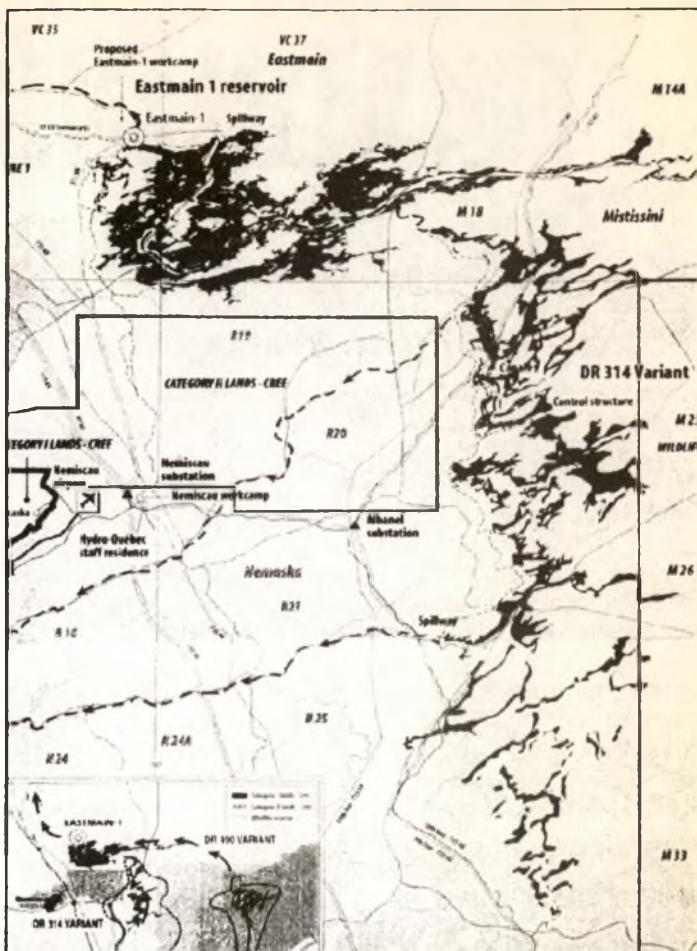
How much electricity would come from the powerhouse: 5.1 to 5.6 TWh per year

How many new kilometres of permanent road: 222 to 226



SOURCE OF MAPS: HYDRO-QUEBEC

The "DR 490 Variant" reservoir is bigger, closer to Mistissini Lake, more costly, more damaging environmentally and diverts more of the Rupert.



What the EM-1 reservoir would look like, just north of Nemaska. The reservoir is in Eastmain and Nemaska traplines. Also shown: the reservoir upriver on the Rupert in Mistissini traplines. Here we see one of the two possible variants known as DR 314. This one is the smaller of the two: the lesser of the "two evils."

The unknowns of the deal

Would Mistissini Lake be affected: Hydro-Quebec has said both that there would be minor impacts, and no impacts at all. Which is it?

What would happen to Nemaska... "Nemaska" means Place of Lots of Fish. Local residents fear they would lose the fish-rich regions, not to mention the mercury poisoning.

Where would the Crees get the money to invest? What percentage would we have to pay and what percentage of revenues or profits would we get? Would we get a say in how our investment is managed?

Environmental, social and economic impacts: Yet to be studied.

How many Hydro-Quebec employees would be housed in the new work camp just east of Nemaska? Would it become another Radisson?

Do the people really want it? If not, why are some chiefs meeting behind closed doors with Hydro-Quebec? Why the secrecy?

What is Hydro-Quebec offering? Everybody's mum. When are they going to show us the money?

GAMBLING

Take it, shake it

BY CHARLES ESAU

Gambling fever has become a plague across Indian land. For some communities gambling on reservations has become a profitable economic venture. Gambling establishments such as casinos and bingo halls are becoming as visible as huge food chain stores.

Gambling's seemingly innocent nature attracts the unaware gambler to its mystery. This insidious disease has snared many gamblers to oblivion. Like alcoholism, gambling is an addiction.

Gambling affects the individual, family and community. It affects the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual nature of the gambler. What seemed to have been a recreation for some gamblers could become a hellish nightmare.

Different types of games traditional or non-traditional have been around for generations. One traditional game is played with a caribou tail bone, "Dapatchewan," and piece of caribou tail tuft.

There would be about six small tail bones tied together with holes where you would try to put the pointy end of the bone into the hole of the tail bone in mid-air. The amount of tail bone you would catch in mid-air would determine how skilled you were.

I remember when I was young in Moose Factory, Ont., where I grew up in Horden Hall residential school. We played games with coins or marbles. As young boys there was a game I always saw and sometimes played by throwing coins toward a stick was "Shake or Tails, Heads or Tails." At times even the supervisors were in the game. When you lose you're "jacked out."

We would throw coins, nickels, dimes or quarters at a stick stuck into the ground at a distance sometimes with a small circle around it. The player who threw the coin that lands closest would be the person who would shake or take. At the beginning of the game it was agreed whether the player would shake or take. The one closest would take all the coins and win. If it was a shake

the player throws them in the air and win all the coins that landed with heads on the ground. It got to be interesting when more players lined up to play. At times there would be a good player who threw a coin and it leaned against the stick. This would be a leaner.

Other games with the older generation of males were with playing cards, like poker that I saw when I used to visit in the tent city, a land area that most Crees from Quebec chose to live in on the Island and along the shore of the Moose River. There would be poker card games all night, especially on weekends.

Today in Waskaganish, we involve ourselves with events and activities in the community with fundraising adapting from the old days and ways. Most of this fundraising for clubs and organizations involves gambling.

That is an area where some people tend to have trouble understanding about the compulsive or obsessive influence that gambling has over an individual's life. That is my aim in writing and presenting this information on gambling.

This article is for you to become aware of gambling addiction. I am submitting this information and I give credit to the research done by Dave Belleau of Alkali Lake in his training workshop that I attended in Edmonton and I quickly learned of my own behaviour. I am not trying to influence anyone to quit but to be aware of the addiction. It is a powerful force for those who are not aware.

The compulsive gambler

"Once the gambler is hooked by the addiction to gamble and has crossed the fine line of either you are or you're not, the powerful need to control emerges. It is in being out of control to the gambling that they gambler becomes access to control his or her gambling. Thus, the term compulsive gambler coins this obsession." -Dave Belleau



Charles (on right) with Sydney Cheezo.

WILLIAM NICHOLLS

Additional and nontraditional gambling in the past

One of the most common forms of gambling known to many First Nations communities are "stick games." The games are quite common throughout the First Nations communities across Canada. Rules may alter very so slightly, yet the spirit to win is present.

These games were played for tribal pride. Two different nations may have a gathering where stick games highlight the event. It's still played today with more intensity in teams compared to the favoured bingo.

Bingo was once a harmless church basement recreational activity for small reservation groups. Prizes were foodstuffs with perhaps a five-dollar bill for the final game. Drawn by the monetary prize, organizers discovered a potential fundraising venture. Today, bingo halls are all over the land like churches. These halls attract First Nations people en masse.

Common characteristics of compulsive gambler

- spends a lot of time gambling. Little or no time for the family.

- begins to bet more to get the same rush.

- chasing losses. Tries to win back the money he or she lost.

- borrows and borrows and borrows more money.

- very secretive and defensive about his or her gambling.

- "big win mentality" never talks about losses.

- obsessed to control the gambling.

- promises to slow down but to no avail.

- lies about the nature of his or her gambling.

- balloons: spouses rescue him or her from creditors.

- behaviour is either excited or depressed.

- irritable: gets mad when someone interrupts the gambling.

GAMBLING

- brags about winning.
- gambles alone.
- panic stricken: fear credit for gambling will be cut off.
- neglects hygiene, exercise and proper diet.
- very unstructured in his or her daily life.
- obsessed to seek action for the rush.

Cost of gambling to

1. Individual: loss of self-worth, isolation from self, family and community, finances in disarray, loss of relationships.
2. Family: loss of family time, no get-togethers for festive seasons, self-esteem is a shambles, feuds over money, abuse of all sorts happen when children are left alone.
3. Community: community spirit is gone, gossip, no unity, no creativity.

The Two Types of Addiction

Chemical/substance: alcohol, drugs, solvents/inhalants, caffeine, nicotine, prescription drugs

Process/activity: gambling, sex, work, shopping, TV (soap operas), sports, religion

Wellness

The Waskaganish Wellness Society assists others with such issues we encounter as we recover from the abuse of alcohol and drugs. We tend to cross over to another addiction like gambling, eating, shopping and so on. I would like to share the words of Jane Middleton Moz from her book titled *Shame and Guilt*. Moz was our special guest at our community wellness week in Waskaganish on March 9-11 of this year.

"The individual who feels he can never achieve for himself the success or acceptability his parents or powerful others required of him, may gamble compulsively to attempt to 'win the big one' and finally become powerful enough.

"When individuals lose faith in their internal resources and distrust their own acceptance, they must strive harder and harder to meet the expectations of others or find escape from the intense pain of shame. Alcohol and drugs momentarily override the pain, provide the sense of power for the powerless.

"The greater the addiction, the greater the power given to the addiction and the more helpless the individual feels in breaking free of it. The individual feels helplessly dependent on the addiction for self power or self worth in much the same way they felt helpless and dependent on the original caretaker who found them lacking in capability, power or worth.

"The search for external resolution - the attempt to find self-esteem, self acceptance, control, love ability and personal power externally renders the self more helpless, powerless and unworthy. And these feelings result in increasing sense of shame and the drive to find yet another external answer."

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Remember Cree Fishing Rights This Summer

The present sport fishing regulations of Quebec do not make any mention of the special regime that applies in the James Bay Territory, Eeyou Istchee. The published regulations mention that: "The Quebec National Assembly has formally recognized 11 Native Nations in Quebec and their particular rights. The Gouvernement du Quebec has chosen to negotiate with these Nations in order to reach agreements that would better recognize and specify these rights." The booklet asks those interested parties to telephone the "Service d'accueil et renseignement" or Faune et Parcs office concerned."

However, none of the parks or other offices in the James Bay Territory have information on the nature of Cree rights set out in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement signed by Quebec.

It is a strategy used by governments to sign agreements with aboriginal peoples and then fail to enforce them. In fact the Cree rights are stronger in a court of law than the fishing regulation. The sport fishing regulations should be published with the appropriate sections of the Agreement and should reference these in the text.



ÎN-
COUNCIL
GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREE (EYEOU ASTCHEE)
GRAND CONSEIL DES CRIS (EYEOU ASTCHEE)



The Cree rights in this regard are as follows:
(unofficial summary)

Category I: under the complete and exclusive control of the Crees.

Category II: an area where the Crees have the exclusive right to hunt and fish, and where the Crees may grant permits to non-Natives to fish.

The Cree local government and Cree Regional Authority have the power to pass bylaws affecting Categories I and II for Native people and non-Natives permitted to hunt and fish thereon that are more restrictive than those regulations passed by the responsible Provincial and Federal Government. Non-Native who meet residency requirements established by the Cree local governments are permitted to sport hunt and sport fish within Categories I and II of the community in which they are resident.

Category III: an area for the joint use of Native people and non-Natives, subject to the rights, conditions and restrictions established by the Agreement.

To the extent that outfitting facilities are available Quebec will require non-Native hunters and fishermen to use such facilities and be accompanied by Cree guides.



CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRÉE

First Nations favourites

BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

This time around I thought I would try some traditional recipes. Not all of them are traditional Cree recipes, but I think you'll find them tasty additions in most cases to your regular fare. The beaver and squirrel recipes are for the real traditionalists. Enjoy.

My next recipe column will come in time for fishing season and will include some of the best fish dishes I know or have heard off. Look for my gardening tips in a future issue since summers around the corner.

Upside-down roast Canada Goose

In this recipe you are essentially poaching the bird, i.e. roasting it upside-down in liquid with finely chopped vegetables.

You may want to add potatoes, onions and firm vegetables to the roasting pan about 45 minutes before the bird is finished. They will not only add flavour to the sauce and the bird, but will save you time by allowing the entire meal to finish together.

Ingredients:

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
1 cup carrots, shredded
1 cup celery, diced
1 cup onion, finely chopped
1 medium apple, cored, peeled and chopped
4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 cup low-salt chicken stock
1/2 cup dry white wine (optional)
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
2 tablespoons dried rosemary
2 tablespoons dried thyme
4 bay leaves
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cracked pepper (may use coarse ground pepper)
1 whole goose

Preparation:

Pre-heat oven to 375F. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the carrots, celery, onions, apple and garlic. Sauté for 8-10 minutes. Add the stock, wine, parsley, rosemary, thyme, bay leaves, salt and pepper. Turn up the heat and bring to a boil for about 1 minute. Lower the heat to medium-low and simmer for 6-8 minutes.

Pour the vegetables and liquid into a large

roasting pan fitted with a lid. Turn the bird breast-side down and nestle into the vegetables and liquid. Spoon some of the liquid and vegetables over the goose and add more water (or wine if you like) to submerge the bird halfway. Cover and roast about 1 1/4 hours. Turn the bird over, facing up and cook another 15 minutes, uncovered or until a meat thermometer registers 160 degrees F when inserted next to the leg bone.

Remove and let the bird sit for about 10 minutes before carving. Spoon some of the juice and vegetables over each portion of sliced meat and potatoes.

Serves 4-6.

Wine Recommendation:

The dark and heavy nature of wild goose meat needs to be enjoyed with a solid, bold red. A Syrah drinks beautifully with this meal, perhaps the central California coast. This wine is produced and bottled by Robert Lindquist; a reasonably priced wine and a good value.

Burgundies also are particularly pleasant with this. Just pick one. If you're loaded with cash pick up a 1995 Cote-Des-Rhone from the Guigal wineries at your friendly neighbourhood SAQ. You'll enjoy the leftover wine with your meal.

Indian fry bread

2 cups self-rising flour
About a tbsp. baking powder
About a cup of milk or water

Mix the flour and baking powder together. Add milk or water and stir to make a stiff dough but workable with your hands (not sticky). Knead together a few times 'till dough is smooth. Pinch off a piece of the dough about the size of a small rubber ball (for large piece of fry bread). The old way is to flour your hands and flatten between the palms until the size of a small dessert plate to about 1/4-inch thick. If this is difficult for you to do, put the dough on a floured surface and flatten with palm of hands or roll with a rolling pin to form about a 6-inch circle. Keep your hands floured as you work with the dough. I use an 8-inch iron skillet filled with Canola oil or a good vegetable oil to fry the dough. Fry until the dough is a light golden brown and turn to fry both sides. Drain on paper towels.

FOR INDIAN HAMBURGERS,

HOT DOGS AND SMOKED SAUSAGE SANDWICHES:

Make the Fry Bread about 1/2 inch thick before frying. Slice open and fill with hamburger meat, hot dogs or smoked sausage. Sloppy Joe mixture or taco-seasoned meat is also good as a sandwich this way. Add cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and pickles or peppers for great sandwiches.

Old-fashioned squirrel stew

Directions

Salt and pepper squirrel to taste. Boil in water until very, very tender. De-bone. Take 1/2 cup of cooled liquid in which squirrel was cooked and make dumplings with self-rising flour. Put de-boned squirrel back in broth and add cut strips of dumplings to broth and squirrel while cooking. Add a little butter; if you wish, you may drop three or four eggs into this mixture. Do not stir until eggs are done. (You may add about 1/2 cup of sweet milk to the dumplings before adding eggs if you wish.)

Beaver ball soup

Beaver balls (testicles) 10-20
1 cup of macaroni
1 jar of stewed tomatoes
Water
Salt and pepper to taste

Preparation:

Boil your beaver balls first, adding macaroni and tomatoes. Add salt and pepper as desired.

Let simmer for one hour.

Note: Is good with bannock. You should know that actual beaver balls do not taste that good. So I've told by those in the know. You can make your beaver balls out of moose, deer, bear or elk meat and roll in to small balls. Let me know if you try actual beaver balls! Enjoy!

Mesquite grilled rabbit

Ingredients:

Fresh rabbit
Mesquite chips (You can substitute any cook wood chips, hickory, apple, alder, etc.)
Fire

continued on page 20

RECIPES

continued from page 19

Preparation:

Clean and piece rabbit and place on grill over slow coals, add mesquite chips to the fire. Put a lid of some kind over the rabbit and cook slowly for 1/2 hour or so, turning halfway through. It will get a real good smoke flavour that way.

Note: Don't overcook the rabbit. Rabbits have very little fat and will dry out quickly.

Roast loin of moose with cranberries

2 thick slices of lemon

2 thick slices of orange

2 slices of peeled fresh ginger

1 1/2 cups sugar

1 small bay leaf

2 cups fresh cranberries

4 pounds boneless loin of moose (can substitute caribou if desired)

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 teaspoon salt

1 1/4 teaspoons freshly ground pepper

2 cups dry red wine (optional, can substitute non-alcoholic wine)

2 cups beef or moose stock

2 tablespoons cold butter cut into pieces

Fresh thyme sprigs, for garnish

In a medium saucepan, combine the lemon, orange, ginger, sugar and bay leaf with 1 cup of cold water. Bring to a boil over high heat, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Reduce the heat to moderate and boil, uncovered, until syrupy, 10 to 15 minutes.

Stir in the cranberries, then remove from heat and cool. Transfer the mixture to a glass container, cover and refrigerate for 1 to 2 days, stirring once or twice during that time.

Preheat the oven to 400F. Rub the moose with the olive oil, 3/4 teaspoon of the salt and 1 teaspoon of the pepper, pressing the seasonings into the meat. Set the loin on a rack in a roasting pan and roast, basting frequently with the pan juices, until medium-rare (about 135F on a meat thermometre), 25 to 30 minutes. Cover the moose loosely with foil and set aside for 10 to 15 minutes before carving.

Meanwhile, remove and discard the bay leaf and the lemon, orange and ginger slices from the cranberries. In a food processor or blender, puree half the cranberries and half the liquid until smooth.

In a medium saucepan, boil the wine over high heat until reduced to 1/2 cup, about 5 minutes. Add the stock and bring to a boil. Add the cranberry puree; reduce the heat to low and simmer, uncovered, until slightly thickened, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Strain the remaining whole cranberries and add them to the sauce with the remaining 1/4 teaspoon each of salt, pepper and chopped juniper berries. Swirl in the cold butter. Slice the moose thinly (stir any juices into the sauce) and serve with the sauce, reheated if necessary.



Beaver balls in the making.

LETTERS

O.J. election: Is community ready for healing?

Letter to *The Nation*:

We have had our elections again in O.J. We talk about re-elections but I feel that's a misnomer because if they were re-elections, we would have had the same four candidates running for chief and started off where the whole contestations started.

These were completely new elections starting with new nominations and involving new candidates (see News, page 5).

However, the following are my "memoirs" of the past events as I saw them take place and what my feelings were throughout the whole ordeal. Some individuals may have gone through the same emotions, but I don't claim to represent anyone.

March 30, 1999

On March 29, I went to a community assembly that had on the agenda an item dealing with one of the local businesses. I just came from another meeting and I thought I would saunter over to hear the discussions on the subject. I was stunned that the meeting had nothing to do with the subject on hand. Instead the meeting turned out to be a political one dealing with our favourite subject, elections.

There is an issue dominating the lives and affairs of the people of O.J., and I'm sure you are sick of hearing it as I am, and that is the elections. People have agreed to elections, but yet it becomes THE agenda on the council, and even the community meetings. We have allowed this issue to dominate our lives and rip us apart as a community and even friends and families.

We have used the excuse that we cannot progress until this issue is resolved and we have used this item as an excuse when work and projects are put on hold, but the people have given power to the councillors to continue to make decisions and deal with projects and items on hand. This cannot be an excuse. I have been to meetings where there were a number of important items on the agenda, and election pops its ugly head dominating the discussions. This topic could have been one of the items on the agenda, but not the only nor the most important.

People have used the excuse, "You don't listen to us. You don't listen to the people." O.J. is one of the most democratic places I have seen; in fact, it's so democratic it looks fearful it could be heading toward anarchy. Anarchy may have its good points, but our people have always maintained a system of order.

What appalled me at this meeting was how could our leadership, the councillors we have voted in, have allowed such disorder and hurt in our community. It looked like anarchy has taken over our leadership and there is no respect for order and dignity for authority. We have trampled over people's feelings and self-respect over an issue that can benefit only certain people and individuals.

Our leadership needs to have more backbone and judgemental skills to lead our people. Yes, listen to the people, but judge. Any true leader knows that one does not follow the whims and expectations of the people, unless he/she is concerned with his/her political future. We need leadership who will listen to their people, yet have the ability to go against the tide when truth and integrity are on the line.

I left the meeting before it ended when I saw the disorder and lack of respect prevailed. I went home very disappointed at the outcome of the meeting because it seemed very obvious that this meeting was strategically planned and executed where the issue of elections would

be brought out without the full knowledge of the *whole* population. The agenda of that particular meeting was posted and even placed in mailboxes so people were aware of the agenda, but the item on elections was not on there. Whether our leadership was involved or got sucked into the manoeuvres, I will let their consciences deal with them. Personally, I could not sleep, not because of the issue at hand, but for the way it was brought to the floor right to the well-written out resolution to move up the elections. The whole matter of the pushing for early elections in disregard to the fact that the people previously wanted the election bylaws translated and reviewed was overlooked.

We are right back to square one when we say that we will follow the previous or existing bylaw and take care of the revisions after the elections. This whole conflict was because of the ambiguities and vagueness of the existing bylaw, and we had the proponents of the contestation state that revising the bylaw and having it translated into Cree was the most important issue at hand before we could proceed any further. (If the readers of *The Nation* could check out back issues, I believe some have even stated to that effect.) I ask myself, Are the ambiguities of the old or existing bylaw the whole issue of this election or is there another factor for pushing for the elections? You be the judge.

Please don't get me wrong. Even though I don't believe in these elections, I don't oppose them because that is what the people want. I thought simple guidelines would be followed since a part of the new election bylaws was reviewed and scheduled dates were set to finalize them. What I oppose is the manner in which steps were taken to overlook the new bylaw and jump straight to nominations and elections. The Elder who we say we have done wrong to, and the issues of the contestation, have been cast aside for political reasons. But I guess that's politics!

As I examined the meeting that night, I wondered who is our leadership (councillors) listening to when we break our previous resolutions and disregard our Cree-only reading population and Elders. I do not blame the people for pushing their interests but I place the blame on the leadership (councillors) who allow disorder and chaos to dominate our meetings and community. There is common sense that dictates respect

and order, and if that is missing, there are common procedures that should be followed.

April 21

Today is April 21 and we just went through another bizarre night at the community assembly last night. An Elder dies last week and three days later another respected community member passed away, and we were supposed to have elections on Monday, April 19. Out of respect for those who passed away and for those grieving, the returning officer did not have the elections. She is pressured by different individuals to go ahead with the elections because "Goose Break" is coming up. She meets with the council. The council could have made the decision to postpone the elections 'till after the culture break but they pass it to the community knowing full well that they will push for immediate elections. I personally felt that the council could have kept its integrity if it had made the decision itself not to have immediate nominations in the name of respect, even if it was opposed by the people. By passing this decision to the people this was a cop-out to place the blame on the community for any decisions that were made.

As a result, an immediate community assembly was called out that same afternoon to decide whether to have the elections or not. The supporters of the early elections were in full force but the other community members were totally unaware of the whole strategy. They not only wanted early elections but nominations were done that same afternoon. The people wanted nominations right away to "get this issue over with" and "to have them before Goose Break." As this meeting and as the wrangling was going on, the casket of the community member was taken into the church. We are a nation who values respect?

There were feelings of dismay and disbelief that we were actually going through with the nominations in spite of the grieving individuals who had lost their loved ones.

During the nomination process, the same questions and arguments followed as before. Remember, we are still using the existing bylaw. We are still trying to "fix as we go along" the same issues and overcome the same arguments as before.

Going home that evening, I could not believe we went through with the process of

nominations. As I reviewed that evening, I could not believe we could call last-minute nominations when the majority of the people were not aware of the meeting. Many were not in the community because they were making funeral arrangements and others never expected nominations to take place at such a time as this. I felt there was a total disrespect and disregard for the grieving families and those who have passed on, as well as their fellow-members for pulling a "quick-draw." Many were surprised and upset because they could not put their voice in.

I have learned that in O.J. we have our own definition of "majority" and that is: inform all your supporters and those outside the communities and make sure they are at the meetings, do your homework such as make resolutions, add your agenda to the one on hand even though the topics do not relate, and then put a quick vote and you have your majority. The rest of the community will wonder what hit them the next day.

Conclusion: our community needs healing. We have learned not to trust one another and we seem to overlook our feelings for one another. This is a community that is scattered inwardly and tattered to pieces. Will people want to work together to bring healing to the community? Will the new leadership be able to unite the community back together again? Will we accept each other again or are we all bound to who is in the leadership position as we have already seen demonstrated? I believe that to bring this community together, it will take an actual miracle from God.

Do I have any regrets in spite of what has happened? Should O.J. continue in its spending frenzy, our days are numbered and we could be facing a deficit in the not-too-distant future. My greatest regret was that Louise Wapachee (the outgoing chief) was not given the chance to operate in the full capacity as chief because I really believe she could have turned the financial situation of the community. I feel we, as a community, were not ready for any changes or tightening of the belt. We are looking for a leadership that will continue the status quo. That is my greatest regret.

In conclusion and in all sincerity, I wish the new chief and council all the best.

Johnny Dixon
Ouje-Bougoumou

Mommy

In memorium

Clara Small

March 10, 1933 - September 23, 1980

Your picture hangs upon my wall
For me to see and remember you always
My children ask "Who is that - Mommy?"
I say to them "My Mommy."

Many years have come and gone since God called you to
his home
On that day Dad's grief was two-fold; when he said "What
will my children do,
When they don't see their Mother, now?"
As he fell to his knees by Grampa's lap.
Our hearts were shattered and broken; filled with pain
and sorrow
But we knew your pain was eased; to suffer no more.
Like fallen rain, we shed our tears
For we lost one so dear
It was you, Mommy. It was you.

Life changed on that day in September
Forever etched to us in memory
But God was watching over us
For you see, Mommy. He gave us a beautiful baby girl
who now has your name
Because, God knew we loved you so.

Your young boys are men now, with families of their own
They still sing but only to the Lord.
A daughter now, looks and walks like you
She's a granny too.
Another loves to cook and bake, she's as good as you.
And, I can even sew.
Your baby girl has lots of children
Daddy says, "she's a Mommy like you."

Many grandchildren have been born; since you left that
fateful morn,
You would have been a great Grandma too.
It's only sad you saw so few but you live in their hearts
too
Cause we tell them about you, Mommy.

Daddy is our Guide and Strength, who walks us through
our joys and tears.
He tells us always, it was "how you wanted it so"
We love him dearly; he's our precious Elder now, you
know.

Life had its struggles, without you by our side
Now, your "Skeesh" has gone to heaven to be by your
side.
Your love has taught us to grow and thrive;
To live our lives with pride;
Thank you Mommy.
Now, rest in God's peace and love
For we still love and miss you; though you're up above.

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Finger-licking good

Well it has finally happened, everyone in Attawapiskat can actually just walk down the street and pick up Kentucky Fried Chicken or a pizza from Pizza Hut. If you are a First Nation person you understand how we Crees love our Kentucky Fried Chicken. Up to now this was one of the luxuries we waited to savour with expensive flights to Timmins or a costly order flown up to us.

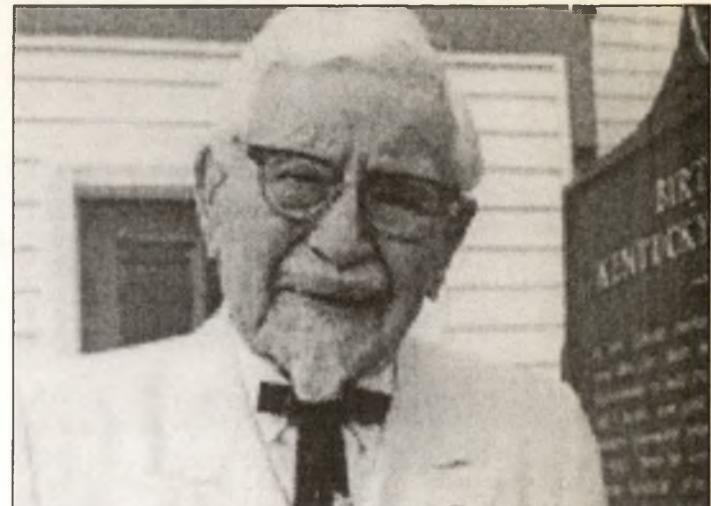
Life just got a little easier for the people in Attawapiskat with the grand opening of a brand-new Northern Store complete with a quick-stop variety and take-out that features our beloved Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut. Things certainly are changing at a rapid pace in Attawapiskat these days and the construction of this all-new Northern Store is proof of that.

My brother Joe, who works part-time in security at the state-of-the-art Northern Store, tells me the impact of this new store has been great. My family, friends and neighbours in Attawapiskat finally have a place to shop that is similar to the large department, grocery and fast food services once only available with a trip to the South.

The grand opening of the Northern Store was a big event for everyone with a professional fireworks display and ceremonies. It may not seem that such a development in a small remote First Nations community on the James Bay coast is a big deal. Believe me, this development is the beginning to the new era for my people.

Many of my friends in the South are astonished when I tell them we have only had running water and indoor toilets for most of my community in the last 10 years. They are surprised when I tell them Attawapiskat is virtually cut off from the rest of the world except expensive flights to Timmins. They are shocked when I tell them that the prices of staples like milk, vegetables and bread is more than twice the cost we pay for them in the South. Of course, this is due to the cost of transporting all goods by air, winter road or summer barge.

With the opening of the new Northern Store my people are ex-



cited and believe this new investment means the future for more development is bright. I am sure there is a lot of Kentucky Fried Chicken being eaten these days and I'll bet there are even take-out orders making their way out to the goose hunters in their blinds.

All this new development has resulted in more employment for people in my community and it certainly has a positive effect on local people's general outlook and pride in the community.

Northern Store is a main investor and service-provider of goods to First Nations communities right across Canada. They are linked to a history there was born with the Hudson's Bay store chain at the time of the fur trade. It is good to see new investment in Attawapiskat and other communities up the James Bay coast, and it makes sense too because this company has made a lot of money in dealing with First Nations people. I congratulate everyone concerned with this positive development in Attawapiskat, the chief, council and Northern Store management and employees, and I am sure there is more to come.

Hopefully, these developments will be done keeping in mind the values and traditions that are unique to the Crees of the James Bay coast. If these developments make life easier for the community without drastically changing the way we live, a good thing has been done.

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT
Quebec Community Newspaper Association award
nominee for best column

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CLASSIFIEDS

I want to wish a happy birthday to my husband, Stanley on May 17th. I love you very very much with all my heart. And to my baby brother Claude. His birthday is on May 24th. I want to wish you a happy birthday and I miss you. With love, Caroline S. Pachano (Chisasibi)

Happy birthday to Ernest Jolly from Waskaganish on May 18 1999.

Happy birthday to the world's greatest dad on May 3, David Bosum. No words can say how much you mean to me. I love you dad! Love always, your daughter Lily Belle Bosum.xoxoxo.

I would like to wish my baby sister in the family Lilybelle a happy birthday on May 14th and many more years to come. I love you!! Weena Bosum in O.J.

We would like to wish a happy first birthday to our grandson Marcus Cameron Blackned on May 24th. We love you and we miss you so much. Hope you will be here with us on your birthday. Also to our son Myles Kyle Blackned, his birthday is on May 22nd. Happy 18th birthday son. With love, mom and dad (Janie and Marty) Waskaganish.

This or goes out to our son Dakota Mayappo will be celebrating his second birthday on May 13, 1999. Hope you know how special you are in how much we love you. Happy birthday and many more to come. Love, mom and dad (Eastmain)

Happy first birthday to Marcus Blackned on May 24th. We hope you know how special you are to all of us. We are proud to have such a wonderful, cute and chubby nephew. Happy birthday and many more to come. From your aunts Martina, Maureen and Melanie and

your uncle Marlon. Waskaganish.

Happy birthday to Simon RabbitSkin. Mon amour, you are simply the most lovable, huggable, kissable, adorable man on earth. If sometimes you act like it cold blooded bird killer, I still love you very much. Bonne fete, mon cheri. Diane (Chibougamau)

Happy second birthday to our nephew Dakota Mayappo on May 13, 1999. You fill our hearts with love every day. We love you very much. From Patrick, Derek, Sandra and Elsa.xoxoxo

This belated birthday wish is going out to handsome Robert Auclair on May 19th. We hope you'll come back home soon to us. We miss you very much. P.S. we hope you bring us what you usually bring us back. From your three girls. Hugs'n'kisses.

I would like to wish a happy first birthday to my cousin Marcus Blackned on May 24th. Wait until you see me blowing out my first candle too. Hugs and kisses, your first cousin Marisa Ryla Milobin Weistche Cowboy. Waskaganish.

We want to wish a happy 18th birthday to our brother and uncle Myles Kyle Blackned on May 22nd. We hope you will enjoy your birthday. From Martina, Maureen, Marlon and Melanie and your niece Marisa.

Sometimes we're real close friends, we stay up late and talk at night, other times we don't get along and there are even times we fight. But I know she's always there, she's my sister, I love my sister. Happy birthday to Katherine Tomatuk on April 30, 1999. From Sherry Ann

Tomatuk (Eastmain)

For Dakota Mayappo.

Happy second birthday on May 13, 1999. We hope you enjoy your special day at the goose camp. We love you with all our hearts. Love, Grandma and Grandpa Mayappo.

Daylan Lucas Rylan Salt our dear son will celebrate his first birthday on May 18, 1999. The first time I held you in my arms I said, "thank you Jesus for giving us this little boy." I cried because it was the happiest day of my life and that's the day I will never forget. You will always hold key in our hearts. We still thank God today. Love, your mom and dad, Evelyn Moses and Waylon Salt. Happy first birthday son.

Birthday wishes for the month of May 1999! 1- Louise Pien, Jason Paul Guanish, Annie Jean Mameanskum, Susan Tooma-Vollant, 2- Naomi Sandy, Sandy Pien, 3- James Chemaganish, Joseph Tooma, 4- Robert Mameanskum, Allan Nabinicaboo, Ester Elizabeth Tooma, 8- JoAnne Chemaganish, Moses Sandy, 9- Luke Peter Einish, 10- Gabriel Losier, Jacqueline Guanish, Roger Guanish, 11- Nottie Mameanskun-Vollant, John Brian Quiscapplo, Noah Nabinicaboo, Wanda Einish, 12- Judas Tooma, 14- Hannah Tooma Einish, 16, Raquel bacon, 17- Aaron Einish, Jennifer Sandy, Jacob Einish, 18- Luke Wesley Einish, 19- Elizabeth Mameanskum, 20- Annie Nattawappio, Isaac Pien, Thomas Einish, 21- Louise Nattawappio, 22- Jeanne Guanish Vachon, Edna Guanish, Mary Ann Sandy, 23- Kautnat Chescapplo, Caroline Einish, Willie Mameanskum, Vanessa Pien, 24- Tony Pashene, Edward Einish, Kevin Einish, Angelo Pinette, Izzie Tooma, 25- Kenneth Sandy, 26- James Pien,

Loretta Robinson, George Bacon, 27- Lazarus Nattawappio, Lucy Sandy-Joseph, Steven Einish, Daniel Jr. Shecanapish, 28- Ruby Sandy-Robinson, Shaun Swapple, 29- Jessica Chemaganish, Isabelle Shecanapish. Happy birthday to all! And happy Mother's Day to a mothers in Kawawa and Town from Naskapi Ta p a c h a m o o n , Kawawachikamach.

102-WEDDINGS

To my niece Gretta and Louie Diamond. Congratulations on your wedding to you both. Wishing you the best of life's good things. The happiness of being loved. Hugs and kisses to Kristy Lee. Love you all. From Doreen. Mistissini.

104-GRADUATIONS

Congratulations to my sister Diane who will be graduating on May 30, 1999 in Ottawa. She will obtain her certificate in Office Administration (Medical). Follow your dreams for they are worth achieving and I'm very proud of you. From Mary

200-FOR SALE

Boat for sale. Twin 200hp outboards. See it on the Internet at <http://www.mikemcgee.com>.

300-PERSONALS

We want to wish a happy Mother's Day to our mom Janie Cowboy. We love you very much. From husband Marty, your children, Myles, Martina, Maureen, Marlon and Melanie and your grandchildren Marcus and Marisa.

Wishing happy Mother's Day to my sister Charlotte Moar, to my sister in law Clara Kanatewat and you my baby sister Claudine Kanatewat. Claudine, happy first Mother's Day. Take good care of all your little ones. I love you all. Enjoy your special day! Love, sister and sister in law Lorraine K.

CLASSIFIEDS

Happy Mother's Day to my mom Cheryl Trapper. ILU mom. And to all my aunts and my grandma Laurie Loon and Spy Sophie Trapper. I love you all so so much. from Patricia T.Waswanipi.

My mother, my friend. I don't have the words to tell you mom how much I love you. I can only tell you how fortunate I feel because I have so much more than a mother, I have a friend. In fact, I have a best friend, someone I know will never let me down. And so, I just wanted to tell you, mom, that I hope I won't ever let you down either, because you mean the world to me, because I love you. Happy Mother's Day. This is dedicated to my loving, caring and understanding mother Alice Blacksmith. From your daughter Jane Blacksmith.

Dear Christopher Shem, I love you (sometimes too much) but I will always love you no matter what happens. You are so kind and you look so cute (even in your fishing hat) from your secret admirer. I would like to say hi to Titus Iserhoff in Mistissini. Hey handsome, how's it going? You probably don't know me but you'll have to find me if you don't find me just keep searching. From your secret admirer in Chisasibi.

Happy Mother's Day to my mom Charlene Mayappo and to my Grandma Edna Mayappo. Thank you both for all that you have done for me. Taking good care of me even though I'm always in trouble. Remember Grandma, I don't look for trouble, it finds me. Thanks Grandma for helping mom take care of me. I love you. Happy Mother's Day. Also happy birthday to my mom

on May 17, 1999. I love you!!! Your son, Dakota.

Happy Mother's Day to my friends. Ms. Lucy Neacappo Jr. (Lucille), Ms. Pauline Matthew, Pierrette Coon-Come and I won't forget QQ. From Lorraine K. P.S. enjoy your day ladies.

Happy Mother's Day to my wonderful mother Janie Kanatewat. I'll always love you. You are my best friend. I'm glad I'll spend it with you on your day. Mom, you are a caring, sharing and I won't forget lovable mother I ever know. You always show your loving and caring two-year daughters, sons, daughter in law, son-in-law and especially to your grandchildren. You're so sweet and cute (your age). When my grandmother Daisy Pash was here in Hull. She reminded me of you and I remember when you said that your late mother Bella was so short, shorter than my grandmother Daisy. I looked at my grandmother and I pictured her size (Bella) I said to myself what would she do if she was here. I really wanted to see her, my dad's late mother Charlotte and especially my late grandfathers. Mom, I hope you enjoy your special day, relax and I don't want you to do anything. I love you with all my heart! With hugs and kisses, daughter Lorraine K..

To my boyfriend Patrick F. From Chisa. I want to tell you how much I appreciate you. I realize that all through our lives your half worked hard and often gone without things so that I might have what I needed. There have been times when I brought you pain and times when I brought you joy and through them all you stood by me and I fully realize just how precious you are. I wish I could take back the times I disappointed you for

everything that you have been and that you are to me. I thank you with all my heart. I love you always so very much. You've been a good father to our children. Love you all Gwen, four years old, Tyra and Tyron twins I love you both and most of all Patrick. I will always love you T. Tanoush.xoxoxo.

This Mother's Day, I would like to thank Demerise Blacksmith. Even though Demerise has nine children, and nine grandchildren, countless nephews and nieces and a very busy life she took on me as well. I have heard that many mothers often have trouble liking their sons first girlfriend but Demerise handled me like a pro. Especially considering the cultural differences, and I being raised in New York. This past year she has welcomed me into her home and nurtured me like my own mother does.

She has taught me a great deal about Cree culture and made me feel like one of her own. She taught me her secret fish recipe and spent endless hours teaching me how-to sew, even though we both know I'll never get that stitch quite right. I know now why my mother and Demerise have been such close friends over the years. They are both great mothers with years of wisdom and a crazy sense of humor. Thank you Demerise, Alex and the whole Blacksmith family. Truly, Amanda Pepe.

First of all, mothers are one of the greatest gift that the creator bestowed on all mankind, for without our mothers where would we be. Mothers are of great importance to all human nature because our mothers loved us even before we were born, but their love was the greatest

after birth, for the care for our well-being for the rest of our lives. All mothers deserve to be the mother of the year, because all mothers are very similar in the way they do things for their children and others especially when it comes to love. I don't know of any mother who doesn't love their children. I dedicate this to all mothers all over the world on Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all moms, grandmothers, wives, girlfriends and other important women in our everyday lives. In closing I thank God for giving me a loving mother who I am sure loved me very very much. My mom died when I was a baby and about a year old so I was told. Anonymous.

A big hello to my good friends Lena Bosum, Julianne Loultit, Lillian Martinhunter, Cynthia Salt, Jessica Icebound and last but not least Elizabeth Wapachee. Hope to see you girls soon. From Veronica L. P.S. Take care of yourselves.

Happy Mother's day to our mom Nellie, our aunts and especially our grandma Minnie. Happy mother's day to you. Hope you all have a nice day off from housework. Hal Hal Hal. Love you all. From Veronica, Cynthia, Priscilla, John Ryan, Tanya and last but not least Shania in Mist.

Hello to my boyfriend Romeo Paul Shecapio. I really miss you and when am I going to see you again? When you came into my world my life was complete. And I swear nothing will not happen to us. I love. Your girlfriend, C.L. in Mistissini. P.S. Take care.

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